

REMARKS

This application was originally filed with eighteen (18) claims. The status of the claims is as follows: Claims 1-18 stand rejected. Per this Amendment, Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 18 have been amended and Claims 14-17 have been cancelled without admission and without prejudice. No claims have been added.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, 13-15 and 17 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,072,862 issued to Thiru Srinivasan (hereinafter "Srinivasan '862"). This position is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that Srinivasan '862 cannot anticipate the claims because Srinivasan '862 fails to provide any teaching, motivation or suggestion for all of the features of the claims. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has misapplied Srinivasan '862 to the claims.

Srinivasan '862 is directed to an adaptable message delivery system. In Srinivasan '862, the subscriber (recipient) 26 establishes a universal mail box 10 to receive messages from a plurality of different message generating systems 14-22. The message generating systems are used by the callers (senders) 12 who wish to communicate with the subscriber. The universal mail box in combination with a computerized service control point (24) reformats and forwards messages received at the mail box according to instructions that have been previously established by the subscriber. See Srinivasan '862, col. 3, lines 27-43 and col. 4, lines 8-14. Importantly, the incoming messages are generated by the caller using the message generating systems in a conventional manner. In other words, both the caller and the subscriber use whatever communication vehicle (phone, fax, pager, e-mail) that they desire. See Srinivasan '862, col. 2, lines 36-41. The service control point which is located downstream in the communication pathway from the mail box provides for any necessary conversion.

The operation and teachings of Srinivasan '862 are in sharp contrast to the present invention. The present invention seeks to remedy incompatibilities (format,

timing, interest, etc.) between the sender and the recipient at the sender's messaging system. To achieve this, the sender's messaging system has access to the recipient's previously established preference profile during the message processing (creation, output, delivery, etc.) process. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended, without admission and without prejudice, to more clearly express these inherent distinctions.

With respect to Claims 5 and 11, Srinivasan '862 contains no teaching that the potential incoming messages are to be held (not dispatched) by the sender's system if the recipient profile so indicates.

With respect to Claims 6 and 12, Srinivasan '862 contains no teaching that the previously held discrete (individual) messages are consolidated into a composite message once the hold instruction is no longer active.

Claims 13 and 18 have been amended accordingly in view the corresponding system and method claims discussed above.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15-18 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,173,043 issued to Paul Finnigan (hereinafter "Finnigan '043"). This position is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that Finnigan '043 cannot anticipate the claims because Finnigan '043 fails to provide any teaching, motivation or suggestion for all of the features of the claims. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has misapplied Finnigan '043 to the claims.

Finnigan '043 is directed to a voice mail system. In Finnigan '043, the voice mail system is a single system that accepts and processes incoming voice messages. Thus, the voice mail system of Finnigan '043 does not interface with nor influence external message generation systems. See Finnigan '043, col. 3, lines 57-65. Importantly, the incoming messages are generated by the callers using their respective telephones in a conventional manner. The caller's telephone takes no action according to the recipient's previously established instructions. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended, without admission and without prejudice, to more clearly

express these inherent distinctions.

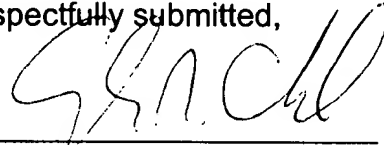
With respect to Claims 4 and 10, Finnigan '043 contains no teaching that the incoming messages are not to be generated by the sender's messaging system if the recipient profile so indicates. All that Finnigan '043 indicates is that the voice mail is blocked at the recipient's telephone mail box. Accordingly, in Finnigan '043 the caller's telephone still generates and transmits the voice message to the voice mail system.

With respect to Claims 6 and 12, Finnigan '043 contains no teaching that the previously held discrete (individual) messages are consolidated into a composite message once the hold instruction is no longer active.

Claims 13 and 18 have been amended accordingly in view the corresponding system and method claims discussed above.

Based on the reasoning provided above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections identified by the Examiner have been overcome. Therefore, reconsideration of all claims and an early indication of allowance are respectfully requested. If the Examiner finds reason not to allow all claims, then a telephone interview with the Attorney signed below is also respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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